Removing files from a repository's history

**Windows**

To remove a large file from your repository, you must completely remove it from your local repository and from GitHub.

**Warning**: These procedures will permanently remove files from the repository on your computer and GitHub. If the file is important, make a local backup copy in a directory outside of the repository.

[Removing a file that was added in an earlier commit](https://help.github.com/en/github/managing-large-files/removing-files-from-a-repositorys-history#removing-a-file-that-was-added-in-an-earlier-commit)

If you added a file in an earlier commit, you need to remove it from the repository's history. To remove files from the repository's history, you can use the BFG Repo-Cleaner or the git filter-branch command. For more information see "[Removing sensitive data from a repository](https://help.github.com/en/github/authenticating-to-github/removing-sensitive-data-from-a-repository)."

[Removing a file added in the most recent unpushed commit](https://help.github.com/en/github/managing-large-files/removing-files-from-a-repositorys-history#removing-a-file-added-in-the-most-recent-unpushed-commit)

If the file was added with your most recent commit, and you have not pushed to GitHub, you can delete the file and amend the commit:

1. Open Git Bash.
2. Change the current working directory to your local repository.
3. To remove the file, enter git rm --cached:
4. $ git rm --cached *giant\_file*

# Stage our giant file for removal, but leave it on disk

1. Commit this change using --amend -CHEAD:
2. $ git commit --amend -CHEAD
3. # Amend the previous commit with your change
4. # Simply making a new commit won't work, as you need

# to remove the file from the unpushed history as well

1. Push your commits to GitHub:
2. $ git push

# Push our rewritten, smaller commit

**Mac**

**Warning**: These procedures will permanently remove files from the repository on your computer and GitHub. If the file is important, make a local backup copy in a directory outside of the repository.

[Removing a file that was added in an earlier commit](https://help.github.com/en/github/managing-large-files/removing-files-from-a-repositorys-history#removing-a-file-that-was-added-in-an-earlier-commit)

If you added a file in an earlier commit, you need to remove it from the repository's history. To remove files from the repository's history, you can use the BFG Repo-Cleaner or the git filter-branch command. For more information see "[Removing sensitive data from a repository](https://help.github.com/en/github/authenticating-to-github/removing-sensitive-data-from-a-repository)."

[Removing a file added in the most recent unpushed commit](https://help.github.com/en/github/managing-large-files/removing-files-from-a-repositorys-history#removing-a-file-added-in-the-most-recent-unpushed-commit)

If the file was added with your most recent commit, and you have not pushed to GitHub, you can delete the file and amend the commit:

1. Open Terminal.
2. Change the current working directory to your local repository.
3. To remove the file, enter git rm --cached:
4. $ git rm --cached *giant\_file*

# Stage our giant file for removal, but leave it on disk

1. Commit this change using --amend -CHEAD:
2. $ git commit --amend -CHEAD
3. # Amend the previous commit with your change
4. # Simply making a new commit won't work, as you need

# to remove the file from the unpushed history as well

1. Push your commits to GitHub:
2. $ git push

# Push our rewritten, smaller commit